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RAYMOND MAN SENTENCED FOR ANTHRAX THREATS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire Tom Colantuono today announced that Richard Irving, 37, of Raymond, New Hampshire, was sentenced today in the United States District Court, Concord, New Hampshire, to eleven months in prison on two counts of mailing threatening communications. The charges arose from mailings Irving made to two New Hampshire businesses in December 2002. The court recommended that the defendant be designated to a medical referral center to receive treatment for his mental impairments. After he is released from confinement, Irving will serve three years of supervised release and was ordered to maintain mental health treatment during that period. Finally, Irving was ordered to pay restitution to the Towns of Exeter and Raymond for their costs in responding to the anthrax threats.

The envelopes mailed to the New Hampshire businesses, Pitkin's Antiques, Raymond, New Hampshire, and the Penang & Tokyo Restaurant, Exeter, New Hampshire, each contained a smaller white envelope with the word "Anthrax" typewritten on it. Inside the smaller envelope was a powder-like substance. Testing of the material indicated it was negative for anthrax and did not contain any live organism.

Irving pleaded guilty to violating 18 U.S.C. § 876 on March 14, 2003. He was facing a statutory maximum sentence of five years.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation to the Raymond Police Department and the Exeter Police Department for their assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the investigation of this matter. U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "My office will aggressively respond to threats involving the purported use of chemical or biological agents. We will hold the persons responsible for those threats accountable for their actions." This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Don Feith.